

EPA Superfund Sites
Earth Force Standardized Pre-Assessments and Service-Learning Project

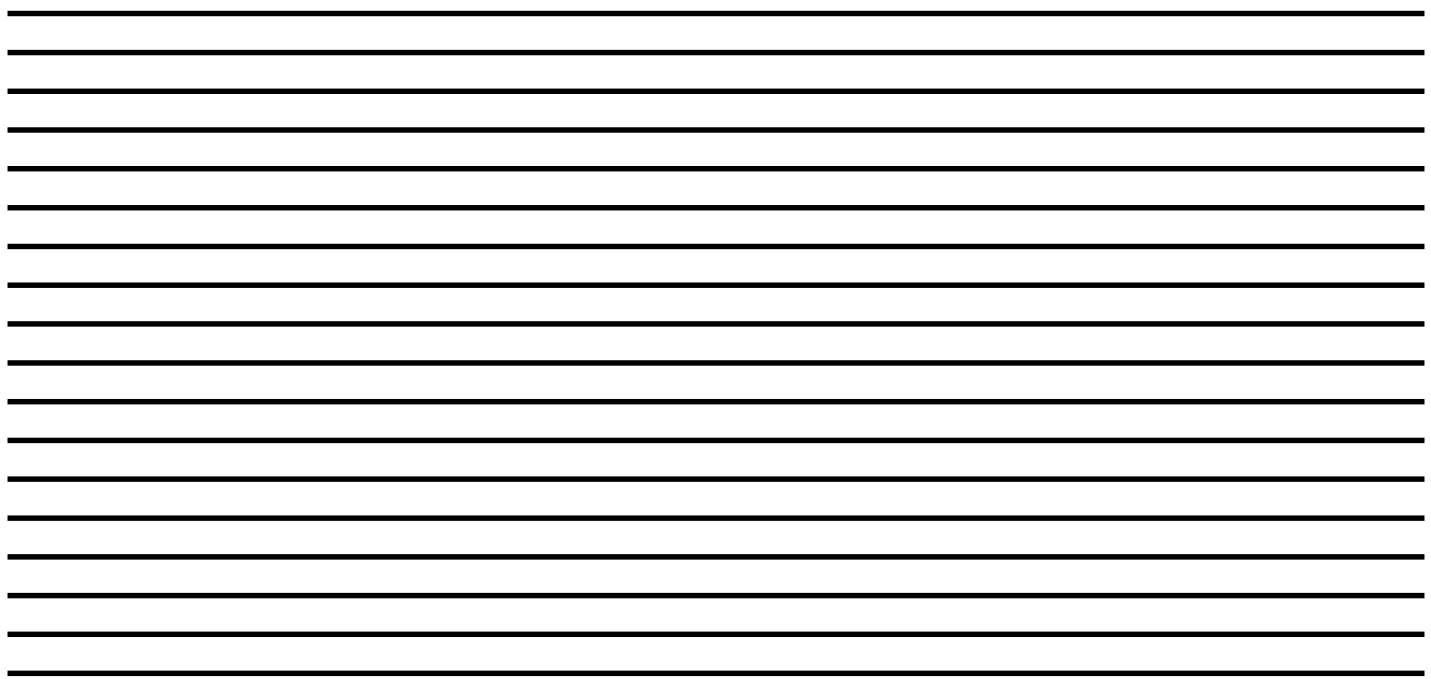
Directions: The following questions contain multiple choices. Circle the letter (a-d) that best answers the question. Each question is worth five points.

1. Why is community involvement an important part of cleaning up a superfund site?
☐ A. The government is not interested in cleaning up toxic waste and would prefer that local communities do it.
☐ B. Local citizens are encouraged to determine the future use of contaminated sites and be active stakeholders in the clean up process.
☐ C. The EPA depends on local citizen experts to guide them through the clean up process.
2. How does population increase toxic wastes?
☐ A. To meet the demands of goods and services, more raw materials are needed.
☐ B. More people dump their toxic substances into local waterways.
☐ C. More people means more sewage must be cleaned.
3. Most hazardous waste comes from:
☐ A. Burning of fossil fuels.
☐ B. Household wastes like oil, pesticides, and paint.
☐ C. Manufacturing and industry.
4. Pollution prevention means:
☐ A. Any effort to reduce or eliminate pollution and wastes.
☐ B. A practice by environmentalists and the EPA.
☐ C. Cleaning up superfund sites to make communities safer to live in.
5. Hazardous Waste is:
☐ A. A sticky substance that is a by-product of manufacturing.
☐ B. Any material that presents a threat or unreasonable risk to people or the environment.
☐ C. An area that has been contaminated.
6. The Superfund Program does this:
☐ A. Sues companies who refuse to clean up their hazardous waste.
☐ B. Makes communities clean up local superfund sites.
☐ C. Pays for superfund cleanup of the most serious sites, even if the EPA is not certain who is responsible for the damage.
7. Risk is:
☐ A. A measure of the probability of suffering harm or loss.
☐ B. The likelihood that a bet will end favorably.
☐ C. The challenge of choosing a correct answer.
8. Two types of risk related to hazardous substances are:
☐ A. Risk of exposure and risk of injury
☐ B. Risk of losing one's job and risk of losing one's house
☐ C. Risk of damage to trees and risk of damage to animals
9. Citizen's main source of information about superfund sites is:
☐ A. The internet
☐ B. The public relations offices of companies.
☐ C. The media: newspapers, radio, T.V.
10. Contamination is:
☐ A. A disease that attacks the hearts and lungs of people who have lived near hazardous substances.
☐ B. When a place has a significant amount of hazardous materials mixed with the soil, water, and air.
☐ C. A program with the Superfund Program.

Directions: Answer the prompt as exactly as possible. Refer to the attached rubric to determine grading criteria.

Writing Prompt: You will be writing a *persuasive business letter* to a state legislature. Included in this letter will be: how you feel about a local superfund site, how you believe its cleanup should be handled, and what evidence you have to defend your opinions. Be as specific as possible.

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Persuasive Business Letter Rubric

Ideas and Content	Organization	Style and Voice	Conventions
A/4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> States writer's opinion (thesis) and tells why it is right with scientific evidence from a recognized source (EPA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction has at least 8 sentences (2 background information/introduction of writer, 1 thesis, 1 simile/metaphor, 3 main points, 1 conclusion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple, compound, and compound/complex sentences are in each paragraph At least 5 specific vocabulary words per paragraph The letter is engaging and inspiring to the reader. 	<p>No errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.</p>
B/3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis contains an opinion Three main points have an example, reason, and event for each main point Written with seriousness Convinces reader with smart ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 paragraphs (introduction, 3 body, and conclusion) Each paragraph contains at least 5 sentences At least 2 transition words are used per paragraph Simile/metaphor is used in introductory paragraph Clearly organized with topic, supporting evidence, and conclusive sentence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sentences are complete. Paragraphs alternate between short and long. Present tense used. Only 3 specific vocabulary words per paragraph The letter is engaging. 	<p>1-5 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.</p>
C/2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is an opinion without evidence, proof, or reasons Emotion, invalid data, or assumptions are used as support Written without seriousness Support is not convincing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis is unclear Main points are not clearly stated Transitions are used only once per paragraph Paragraphs are present but confusing, lack all 5 sentences, or are not organized for clear reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only simple sentences used. Elementary words used. The letter is dull and does not engage the reader. 	<p>6-10 errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling.</p>
DF/1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opinion, main points, and ideas are not clear Letter is difficult to follow Writer is off-track, writing about other topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message is not clear Transitions are missing Distinctions between paragraphs are not clear Fewer than 5 paragraphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many sentences are incomplete or do not make sense. Word choices are elementary and unclear. Letter is not interesting to read. 	<p>More than 10 errors in conventions.</p>